Amendments to the Specification:

Please insert the following new paragraph prior to line 1 of page 1 of the specification:

"The present application is a continuation-in-part patent application of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/310,543, filed May 12, 1999, the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference. Applicant hereby claims the benefit of priority under 35 USC 120 to that prior application."

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 7, line 27, and ending at page 8, line 5, with the following revised paragraph:

"To avoid the costs associated with the development of NIC cards for proprietary systems such as the A series enterprise server, it has been proposed in ~~co-pending~~ U.S. Patent ~~Application Serial~~ No. 6,289,388 ~~09/088,421~~, also assigned to the present assignee and the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety, to provide a direct interconnection between A series enterprise server 10 and NT server 48 so that both systems may connect to a network via a shared network interface card installed on the NT server. Such an invention is implemented as part of a Cooperative Networking Platform (CNP) deployed on a Unisys ClearPath HMP NX computer system ("the ClearPath system"). As will now be described, the ClearPath system comprises a Unisys A Series enterprise server 100 and an Intel-based server 102 running Windows NT ("the NT server")."

Please replace the paragraph at page 10, lines 7-21, with the following revised paragraph:

"Also, a "virtual" LAN device driver 79 and an NDIS Miniport Interface Library 81 together with LANSG and the remainder of the interconnection components in the systems of Figures 3-5 provide a high speed, low latency communications path between the A Series server 100 and the NT server 102 as described in ~~co-pending~~ U.S. Patent ~~Application Serial~~ No. 6,473,803 ~~09/088,552~~, also assigned to the present assignee and the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety. As described therein, these modules, in combination with the physical connection (*e.g.*, feedthrough card

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62, cable 64, and EPCCA card 66) and the interconnection device driver 70), simulate a traditional channel adapter-based network processor of the type described above and illustrated in Figure 1. VLAN 79 allows the A series enterprise server 100 and the NT server 102 to both use their native mechanisms to communicate with each other rather than conventional network communications paths such as Ethernet, which may be considerably slower. In particular, VLAN 79 allows the A series enterprise server 100 and the NT server 102 to communicate at the data link level of the ISO network reference model by simulating the physical level with the HIF."

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 10, line 22, and ending at page 11, line 2, with the following revised paragraph:

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"A system which further improves the communications efficiency of the ClearPath system by simulating the TCP transport protocol and the IP networking protocol between the A series enterprise server 100 and the NT server 102 via the interconnect so that data may be transferred point to point between systems at the transport level rather than the data link level is described in ~~co-pending~~ U.S. Patent ~~Application Serial~~ No. ~~09/126,920~~ 6,233,619, also assigned to the present assignee and the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety. By simulating the transport and network layer protocols, the system described therein removes the inherent limitations of the TCP/IP protocols by using a more reliable network connection through which larger blocks of data may be transmitted without being broken up into smaller data chunks with prepended network protocol information. Since the session level is unaffected, this is accomplished in a manner which is transparent to the user."

Please replace the paragraph at page 19, lines 1-14, with the following revised paragraph:

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"Apparatus of the present invention comprises an interconnection that couples the I/O subsystem of the A Series server 100 to the I/O subsystem of the NT server 102 so that data can be transmitted between the two servers, and a Distributed Transport Communications Management ("ATCM") and a messaging subsystem ("MSS") that provide communication paths between the A Series server 100 and the NT server 102. Additional

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details of the interconnection and of a virtual LAN ("VLAN") communication path providing data link layer network communications between the two servers are provided in the afore-mentioned related U.S. Patent ~~Application Serial~~ No. 6,473,803 ~~09/088,552, filed June 1, 1998~~, the contents of which have been incorporated by reference. The DTCM/MSS communications system implemented herein to allow a transport protocol executing on the NT server 102 to be utilized by applications on the A Series server 100 will be described in detail hereinafter. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the following detailed description is for illustrative purposes only and is not intended to limit the scope of the invention. Rather, the scope of the invention can be determined from the appended claims."

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Please replace the paragraph starting at page ~~25~~, line 25, and ending at page 26, line 7, with the following revised paragraph:

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"MSS is a system interconnect independent messaging transport which presents to its users many different delivery and notification mechanisms for the reliable transfer of both control and data information between different heterogeneous environments. In preferred embodiments, the underlying interconnection may be the afore-mentioned QSP interconnect or a CIA interconnect of the type described in U.S. Patent ~~Applications Serial~~ Nos. 6,088,729, 6,345,296, and 6,064,805 ~~08/887,228, 08/887,295, or 08/887,296, all filed July 2, 1997~~, and all assigned to the present Assignee, Unisys Corporation. The contents of these ~~applications~~ patents are hereby incorporated by reference in their entireties. For each interconnection, the MSS allows for receipt of all acknowledgments before the transmitted data is dropped from the transmitting system's memory. Large messages may be sent since it is not necessary to break the messages into LAN segment sizes, thereby further improving communications efficiency. Since the MSS interfaces directly to the host interface function ("HIF"), when the interconnect is changed, only the MSS interface to the HIF needs to be changed; all other software need not be modified."